

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 SCCT-01 USSS-00 A-01 OPR-02 FBO-02

OC-05 CCO-00 ABF-01 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 CU-02 SCS-03

SCA-01 /080 W

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O P 081415Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9801

USIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

AMCONSL MADRAS PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9114

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN CORRECTION)

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATION AT USIS NEW DELHI

REF: NEW DELHI 8953-C

1. SHORTLY AFTER NOON JULY 8,
ALL GATES OF THE NEW DELHI AMERICAN
LIBRARY BUILDING WERE BLOCKED FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS BY APPROX-
IMATELY 150 DEMONSTRATORS. (THE BUILDING HOUSES BOTH THE
LIBRARY AND USIS OFFICES.) NEITHER USIS NOR EMBASSY HAD
ADVANCE NOTICE OF EVENT. POLICE WARNINGS ON SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS
ARE CUSTOMARY. PAO NOTIFIED A/DCM WHO CALLED MEA AMERICAS
DESK JOINT SECRETARY TEJA WHO SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER.
POLICE CONSTABLE AT NEARBY BUILDING ARRIVED ON SCENE SHORTLY
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AFTER CROWD AND NOTIFIED HIS STATION HOUSE, BUT ADDITIONAL

EIGHT POLICE DID NOT ARRIVE FOR 25 MINUTES, AND ONLY AFTER ONE HOUR AFTER DEMONSTRATION STARTED DID ABOUT 40 MORE POLICE ARRIVE. THE 40 REMAINED "AT EASE" ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE STREET FROM THE USIS BUILDING.

2. DURING PERIOD OF MINIMUM POLICE PRESENCE, DEMONSTRATORS RIPPED OFF ALL FOUR NO-PARKING SIGNS IN FRONT OF BUILDING, SMASHED A NUMBER OF FLOWER POTS ON FENCE WALL AND OVERTURNED AND SMASHED ONE GROUND-LIGHTING FIXTURE JUST INSIDE FRONT GATE. TOTAL DAMAGES ARE ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$125.00.

3. DEMONSTRATION DETAILS: ORIGINAL CROWD OF ABOUT 150 ARRIVED IN FRONT OF BUILDING AT 1220 HOURS, LINED UP ALONG FRONT FENCE AND STARTED SHOUTING ANTI-CIA SLOGANS IN HINDI. SEVERAL CARRIED CAREFULLY LETTERED PLACARDS READING: "CIA AGENTS ENEMIES OF THE COUNTRY," "DOWN WITH THE CIA" AND "CLOSE THE LIBRARY." THEY SHOUTED SLOGANS REPEATING SAME THEMES. NONE OF PLACARDS IDENTIFIED THE GROUP, IN CONTRAST TO MOST PAST DEMONSTRATIONS. SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS CARRIED SMALL INDIAN TRICOLOR FLAGS, ALSO IN CONTRAST TO RED FLAGS OF PAST GROUPS.

4. QUESTIONS BY USIS PERSONNEL OR NEWSMEN TO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF CROWD ELICITED CONTRADICTORY IDENTIFICATION BUT IN ALL CASES RELATED TO CONGRESS PARTY...EITHER AS PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTED, OR NEHRU BRIGADE OF ALL INDIA YOUTH CONGRESS, OR SIMPLY CONGRESS PARTY. HALFWAY THROUGH DEMONSTRATION SECRETARY OF ALL INDIA YOUTH CONGRESS HARCHARAN SING JOSH, (SEE PARA 4 REFTEL) APPEARED ON SCENE, ENGAGED IN SOME DISCUSSION WITH PARTICIPANTS, BUT APPEARED NOT TO TAKE ACTIVE ROLE. RAMISH DUTTA, MUNICIPAL COUNSELLOR FROM A NEW DELHI DISTRICT (CONGRESS PARTY) WAS IDENTIFIED AS ONE OF THE DEMONSTRATOR'S LEADERS.

5. PAO INITIALLY AND REPEATEDLY RAISED QUESTION WITH POLICE OFFICERS CONCERNING LEGALITY OF DEMONSTRATION, SAYING HE WAS SPEAKING OFFICIALLY. PAO ASKED BY WHAT AUTHORITY DEMONSTRATION WAS PERMITTED AND WHY DEMONSTRATION WAS PERMITTED TO CONTINUE IN LIGHT OF BAN ON SUCH UNDER CURRENT EMERGENCY REGULATIONS. NO ONE ANSWERED QUESTION. (BUILDING IS ALSO IN PART OF CITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHERE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE ALWAYS FORBIDDEN.)

6. NEW DELHI POLICE SUPERINTENDENT K.D. NAYAR (SEE REFTEL) APPEARED ABOUT 1321 AND PAO SOUGHT HIM OUT, BUT NAYAR EVADED DISCUSSION, TALKING INSTEAD WITH DEMONSTRATION LEADERS. HE SPECIFICALLY EVADED PAO'S "OFFICIAL" REQUEST, SPOKEN ACROSS FENCE, TO ARRANGE FREE ACCESS TO LIBRARY BUILDING THEN BEING BLOCKED AT ALL ENTRANCE GATES BY DEMONSTRATORS. NAYAR SAID HE

WOULD SPEAK TO PAO LATER, BUT DID NOT. POLICE HAD SUCCEEDED IN ENDING SHOUTING OF SLOGANS, BUT GROUPS SHORTLY SAT IN FRONT OF EACH GATE.

7. DEMONSTRATION CAUGHT SOME 80-90 LIBRARY PATRONS IN BUILDING, AND ALSO PREVENTED MANY USIS EMPLOYEES FROM LEAVING FOR LUNCH. DEMONSTRATION LEADERS WERE HEARD TO INSTRUCT CROWD TO BLOCK GATES AND LET NO ONE COME IN OR OUT. HOWEVER, BY ABOUT 1340 IT WAS OBSERVED THAT, UNDER DIRECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT NAYAR, LIBRARY PATRONS AND SOME USIS EMPLOYEES, A FEW ON MOTOR SCOOTERS, WERE BEING ALLOWED TO SLIP OUT THROUGH ONE OF THE GATES. BUT SOME THREE UNIDENTIFIED INDIANS WHO ATTEMPTED TO ENTER WERE JOSTLED BY CROWD AND REFUSED ENTRANCE.

8. AFTER CONVERSATION WITH ACTING ADCM, ON NEED TO TEST FREE ACCESS TO BUILDING, PAO INFORMED SUPERINTENDENT NAYAR OF HIS INTENTION TO LEAVE BY CAR FOR LUNCH AND SHORTLY RETURN. HIS CAR WAS PERMITTED TO PASS THROUGH CROWD ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY A FEW SHOUTS. AS IF BY COMMON AGREEMENT THE DEMONSTRATORS AND POLICE DISPERSED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. NO USE WAS MADE OF A LARGE PADDY WAGON WHICH HAD ARRIVED MID-WAY THROUGH THE INCIDENT. NO MAGISTRATE HAD COME TO ORDER THE DEMONSTRATION DISPERSED.

9. A/DCM CALLED ON MEA JOINT SECRETARY TEJA THIS AFTERNOON AND LODGED A VERBAL PROTEST AGAINST THE LACK OF NOTICE OF AN INTENT TO HOLD A DEMONSTRATION, THE DAMAGE COMMITTED, AND INADEQUATE PROTECTION PROVIDED TO US DIPLOMATIC PROPERTY. EVEN ASIDE FROM THESE CONSIDERATIONS, HE STRESSED THAT SINCE UNDER THE EMERGENCY SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS WERE PATENTLY ILLEGAL, THE EMBASSY FOUND IT PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE POLICE DID NOT TAKE PROMPT ACTION TO DISPERSE OR ARREST THE DEMONSTRATORS AND ENSURE FREE ACCESS TO THE USIS BUILDING. TEJA RESPONDED ONLY THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO INQUIRE INTO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCIDENT, NOTING THAT HE HAD TAKEN STEPS TO ENSURE THAT POLICE DID COME TO THE AREA AFTER THE A/DCM HAD CALLED HIM FIRST ABOUT THE INCIDENT EARLIER IN THE AFTERNOON. A/DCM STATED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD BE SENDING A WRITTEN PROTEST NOTE LATER. (MINISTER-DESIGNATE TO THE INDIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON, VENKATASWARAN, WAS PRESENT DURING THE DISCUSSION.)

10. COMMENT: THIS INCIDENT SEEMS CLEAR FOLLOW-UP TO VISIT DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. NO PETITION WAS PRESENTED (AS IS USUALLY DONE AT THE EMBASSY) BUT ONE OF DEMONSTRATORS HARANGUED THE CROWD WITH ACCUSATIONS THAT OCCUPANTS OF LIBRARY BUILDING WERE REALLY CIA, THAT THE MATERIALS PRINTED IN THE BUILDING WERE THE SOURCE OF LIES ABOUT RECENT KILLING IN INDIA OF HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE AND A MASS UPRISINGS; TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE FROM THESE KIND OF LIES

THEY WOULD PREVENT ANYONE FROM SEEING THE MATERIAL. HARANGUER
ALSO DEMANDED THAT THE BUILDING BE SEALED, THAT EVERYBODY INSIDE
BE ARRESTED AND THAT THE AUTHORITIES
INVESTIGATE THOROUGHLY
WHAT WENT ON WITHIN THE BUILDING. TO A UPI CORRESPONDENT'S
INQUIRY FOR REACTION TO THIS ACCUSATION OF CIA PERSONNEL IN THE
BUILDING, A USIS SPOKESMAN REPLIED "TOTALLY UNTRUE." LIBRARY
ATTENDANCE WAS ABOUT NORMAL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY.
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Message Attributes

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